

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LUXEMB 00086 250817Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-02 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 SSM-03 /072 W
-----130169 252156Z /75

R 241250Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6189

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUXEMBOURG 0086

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PERP XF

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER OBSERVATION ON ME.

1. IN MY MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER THORN ON JANUARY 23,
HE MADE THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS WITH REGARD TO THE MIDDLE
EAST. (THORN HAD SPENT THE WEEKEND IN JERUSALEM, ATTENDING
A LIBERAL PARTY CONFERENCE, AND HAD SEEN BEGIN, DAYAN AND
OTHERS);

A. HE HAD FOUND BEGIN TO BE "FANATICALLY HARD" AND VERY CRITICAL
OF EGYPT AND OF SADAT--FAR HARDER AND MORE CRITICAL THAN THORN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LUXEMB 00086 250817Z

HAD EXPECTED HIM TO BE. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE HAD FOUND
DAYAN QUITE MODERATE AND "FATALISTIC."

B. BEGIN, DAYAN AND THE OTHERS ALL TOLD HIM THEY WERE
CONVINCED THAT SADAT COULD NOT AT THIS TIME MAKE A
SEPARATE AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL; FOR THE MOMENT, ANY
SETTLEMENT HAD TO BE COMPREHENSIVE. BEGIN HAD TOLD

HIM THAT, SINCE THIS WAS THE CASE, HE WAS NOT WILLING TO GIVE UP ANY NEGOTIATING CHIPS HE HAD WITH THE SYRIANS, THE PALESTINIANS AND OTHERS FOR THE SAKE OF A POTENTIAL AND HYPOTHETICAL AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT.

C. HE WAS STRUCK BY THE FACT THAT BEGIN REFERRED TO THE SINAI SETTLEMENTS AS PART OF ISRAEL'S DEFENSE LINES AND AS, TO USE BEGIN'S EXACT WORDS, "EARLY WARNING STATIONS."

D. HE HAD BEEN TOLD BY DAYAN AND OTHERS THAT THE SAUDIS WERE ANGRY AT THE U.S.-- ANGRIER THAN THE U.S. BELIEVED THEM TO BE.-- PERHAPS, THORN SPECULATED, BECAUSE OF OUR HANDS OFF POLICY IN THE SOMALI-ETHIOPIAN CONFLICT.

E. BEGIN HAD SAID TO THORN A NUMBER OF TIMES THAT THE U.S. SHOULD PUT MORE PRESSURE ON EGYPT BECAUSE "EGYPT WAS EVEN MORE DEPENDENT ON THE UNITED STATES THAN ISRAEL WAS."

F. THORN FELT VERY PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE IMMEDIATE PROSPECTS FOR ANY AGREEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND HE DID NOT SEE ANYTHING THAT THE EC COULD DO AT THIS TIME TO BE HELPFUL.

2. THORN'S REMARK THAT HE SAW NO EC ROLE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AT THIS TIME WAS AMPLIFIED BY AN INTERVIEW
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LUXEMB 00086 250817Z

HE GAVE TO A JOURNALIST JUST PRIOR TO HIS MEETING WITH ME. IN THE INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN THE JANUARY 24 PRESS, THORN SAID THAT BEGIN SPENT MOST OF THE MEETING COMPLAINING ABOUT THE NINE'S LACK OF NEUTRALITY ON THE MIDDLE EAST AND "UNFORTUNATE EEC DECLARATIONS WHICH HAVE HAD A DISASTROUS EFFECT ON MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS." THORN QUOTED BEGIN AS SAYING: "DON'T HINDER US IN PURSUING OUR DIRECT DIALOGUE BY DECLARATIONS WEIGHED IN FAVOR OF ONE SIDE. YOUR DUTY AS EUROPEANS IS TO ENCOURAGE THE EFFORTS UNDERWAY TO PUT AN END TO WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE BEST WAY TO PEACE IS THROUGH DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS. DON'T DO ANYTHING WHICH WOULD UNDERMINE THE NEGOTIATIONS." THORN TOLD HIS INTERVIEWER THAT HE ASSURED BEGIN THAT HE UNDERSTOOD ISRAEL'S IRRITATION WITH EEC PRONOUNCEMENTS ON THE MIDDLE EAST AND WOULD EXPLAIN BEGIN'S VIEWS TO HIS EUROPEAN PARTNERS.
LOWENSTEIN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRIME MINISTER, PERP, POLITICAL SITUATION, PEACE TALKS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LUXEMB00086
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780037-1083
Format: TEL
From: LUXEMBOURG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780130/aaaaayql.tel
Line Count: 111
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 13eda1e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3725597
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRIME MINISTER OBSERVATION ON ME.
TAGS: PGOV, XF
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/13eda1e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014